

Amendment to the Claims

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A method of estimating cost of paintless dent repair of automobile body damage susceptible of the same comprising:

- a. gathering from an automobile information about body damage susceptible of P.D.R. ~~of an on the automobile~~ wherein the step of information gathering comprises characterizing the dent or dents over a range of sizes of damage susceptible of P.D.R. and identifying a cluster of dents and characterizing the cluster;
- b. processing the information according to a ~~pre-existing computerized~~ estimation program;
- c. generating from the computerized program an estimate of repair costs based on the information.

Claim 2 (Original): The method of claim 1 further comprising the processing includes use of stored digital data.

Claim 3 (Original): The method of claim 1 further comprising sending the information via a global computer network to a server.

Claim 4 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the step of information gathering comprises confirming the damage is susceptible of P.D.R.

Claim 5 (Original): The method of claim 4 wherein the damage is one or more dents.

Claims 6-7 (Cancelled)

Claim 8 (Original): The method of claim 7 wherein the characterizing of the cluster comprises confirming the cluster is contained within a predetermined area and counting the number of dents in that predetermined area.

Claim 9 (Original): The method of claim 7 further comprising using the range of dent sizes and cluster information to estimate total cost of repair for the vehicle.

Claim 10 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the step of gathering information includes manual counting damage susceptible of P.D.R. repair and using that information to generate a repair estimation.

Claim 11 (Original): The method of claim 10 wherein the damage is one or more dents.

Claim 12 (Original): The method of claim 1 further comprising requesting a web page hosted by a web server, the web server including a data input template.

Claim 13 (Original): The method of claim 12 further comprising communicating the damage information by completing the data input template.

Claim 14 (Currently amended): An apparatus for estimating cost of paintless dent repair of automobile body damage susceptible of the same comprising:

(a) a device to record information about body damage susceptible of P.D.R. of an automobile based on a characterization of the damage wherein the information comprises characterizing dents over a range of sizes of damage susceptible of P.D.R. and identifying a cluster of dents and characterizing the cluster;

(b) a computer having a data input adapted to digitally store said information about body damage;

(c) a computer with an application program ~~adapted to~~ which receives and processes said data input and generates an estimation report based on said input data.

Claim 15 (Original): The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said computer comprises a first computer for data input and a second computer with the application program.

Claim 16 (Original): The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said device to record information is a worksheet including indicia to prompt recordation of certain information.

Claim 17 (Original): The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said worksheet is a physical worksheet.

Claim 18 (Previously amended): The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said worksheet is an electronic version displayable on a display of said first computer.

Claim 19 (Original): The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said worksheet comprises a physical worksheet and an electronic version.

Claim 20 (Original): The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said characterization of damage relates to one or more dents over a range of sizes of damage susceptible of P.D.R.

Claim 21 (Original): The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said characterization of damage includes characterizing a cluster of dents, confirming the cluster is contained within a predetermined area, and counting the number of dents in that predetermined area.

Claim 22 (Original): The apparatus of claim 21 further comprising using the range of dent sizes and cluster information to estimate total cost of repair for the vehicle.

Claim 23 (Original): The apparatus of claim 14 wherein gathering information includes manual counting damage susceptible of P.D.R. repair and using that information to generate a repair estimation.

Claim 24 (Original): The apparatus of claim 14 further comprising data on a storage medium that is readable by the computer and used to create the estimation.

Claim 25 (Original): The apparatus of claim 14 further comprising a connection to a global computer network.

Claim 26 (Currently amended): An apparatus for estimating cost of paintless dent repair of automobile body damage susceptible of the same comprising:

(a) a hand carryable and manipulatable device having a length, width and thickness;

(b) a plurality of openings in the device of varying areas correlated to a range of areas;

(c) a first opening of the plurality of openings defining a designated smallest dent size susceptible of P.D.R. and a second opening of the plurality of opening defining a designated largest dent size susceptible of P.D.R;

(d) a further opening substantially larger than any of the plurality of openings, correlated to a predetermined area, wherein the predetermined area is correlated to measuring a cluster of dents, the number of dents in a cluster of dents within said predetermined area being adapted to be used to predict total number of dents on a part or all of a vehicle.

Claim 27 (Original): The apparatus of claim 26 wherein said device comprises a sheet of material.

Claim 28 (Original): The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the material has a degree of flexibility.

Claim 29 (Original): The apparatus of claim 28 wherein the material is a paper.

Claim 30 (Original): The apparatus of claim 28 wherein the material is paper laminated with plastic.

Claim 31 (Original): The apparatus of claim 28 wherein the material is plastic.

Claim 32 (Original): The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the width, length and thickness of the sheet are similar to letter sized paper.

Claim 33 (Original): The apparatus of claim 26 further comprising indicia on the device uniquely identifying the plurality of openings.

Claim 34 (Original): The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the plurality of openings are arranged in order of next closest area to the one preceding.

Claim 35 (Original): The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the smallest opening is on the order of 1-1/2 inches squared to 2-1/2 inches squared.

Claim 36 (Original): The apparatus of claim 26 further comprising an opening substantially larger than any of the plurality of openings, correlated to a predetermined area.

Claim 37 (Original): The apparatus of claim 36 wherein the predetermined area is correlated to measuring a cluster of dents, the number of dents in a cluster of dents within said predetermined area being adapted to be used to predict total number of dents on a part or all of a vehicle.

Claim 38 (Original): The apparatus of claim 37 wherein the dents are hail damage dents.

Claim 39 (Original): The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the device is adapted to project one or more of said openings onto a vehicle.

Claim 40 (Original): The apparatus of claim 39 wherein the device includes a light source which projects through light or shadows images of at least one of said openings onto a vehicle.

Claim 41 (Original): The apparatus of claim 39 wherein the device comprises a plurality of separate devices, each having one of said openings.

Claim 42 (Original): The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the device has one or more adjustable sized openings.

Claim 43 (Original): The apparatus of claim 26 in combination with a worksheet containing indicia related to P.D.R. estimation.

Claim 44 (Original): The apparatus of claim 43 wherein the worksheet is electronic.

Claim 45 (Currently amended): A kit for estimating cost of paintless dent repair of automobile body damage susceptible of the same comprising:

(a) a hand carryable and manipulatable device having a length, width and thickness, the device having a plurality of openings in the device of varying areas correlated to a range of areas; a first opening of the plurality of openings defining a smallest dent size susceptible of P.D.R. and a second opening of the plurality of opening defining a largest dent size susceptible of P.D.R., and a further opening larger than the plurality of openings adapted to characterize a cluster of dents in a vehicle;

(b) a recording medium having indicia prompting a user to record a set of identifying information about the vehicle and a set of characterizing information about damage to the vehicle.

Claim 46 (Original): The kit of claim 45 wherein the device and the record sheet are sized generally the size of letter sized paper.

Claim 47 (Original): The kit of claim 45 wherein the device further comprises an opening larger than the plurality of openings adapted to characterize a cluster of dents in a vehicle.

Claim 48 (Original): The kit of claim 45 further comprising an instruction sheet.

Claim 49 (Original): The kit of claim 48 wherein the instruction sheet includes written instructions relating to a plurality of methods of dent estimation.

Claim 50 (Original): The kit of claim 49 wherein the method of dent estimation utilizes either characterizing information from the plurality of openings and characterizing information from the larger opening or characterizing information from the plurality of openings and an actual count of dents and characterization of size of dents.

Claim 51 (Original): A subscriber-based system for estimating cost of paintless dent repair of automobile body damage susceptible of the same comprising:

- (a) a server adapted to host a web site, the web site being password accessible according to a level of authorization, the server being in communication with a database containing information characterizing damage to an automobile;
- (b) a subscriber computer adapted for connection to the web site via a global computer network;
- (c) access to information in the database being dependent on a level of authorization given to a subscriber for compensation.